

Keynotes

December 1997

Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory

Volume 1

AOML Goes Silver

In March 1998, AOML will celebrate 25 years of operating out of its Virginia Key location. When AOML first opened its doors in February 1973, Richard Nixon was president and gasoline cost 35 cents a gallon. Over the years, presidents have come and gone, gasoline prices have continued their skyward climb, and AOML has weathered many a storm, literally as well as figuratively. One fact that has remained the same, however, is that after 25 years our doors are still open. To celebrate this accomplishment, AOML's Silver Anniversary, a three-day schedule of activities is planned for March 2-4, 1998.

Although still in the preliminary stages, here is a sampling of anticipated activities:

- Monday, March 2, 1998: festivities begin with a historical look at the past 25 years. Awards will be presented by invited guests and Dr. Kristina Katsaros. A sit-down dinner for guests and AOML personnel will be held in the evening at the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science.

- Tuesday, March 3, 1998: activities include a full-day of discussions presented by ERL, OAR, and AOML personnel concerning the direction of future research at AOML. Poster presentations of current AOML scientific work will be displayed and discussed by AOML researchers.

- Wednesday, March 4, 1998: AOML hosts an afternoon picnic for guests, special friends, and employees and their families. Our neighbors at the Southeast Fisheries Center are also invited to join us.

Keynotes will keep you posted on the details as plans for AOML's Silver Anniversary celebration become finalized in the coming months.

Director's Greeting

This is the first issue of *Keynotes*, the relaunched newsletter of the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory. This informal tool of communication will be primarily distributed electronically via our AOML web site (<http://www.aoml.noaa.gov>). Copies will be printed for visitors, colleagues, and neighbors who may be unable to conveniently access AOML's web page. One of *Keynotes* functions is to collect all the little bits of information that clutter our electronic byways.

Keynotes will present a forum for expressing opinions and discussing "hot topics," scientific as well as practical work-a-day situations. It will have departments for personal information and some advertising of social and community activities, things for sale, and a section for jobs offered and employees sought. For the moment I am the editor and will review all materials. Ms. Gail Derr is our very able publishing editor who will receive your submissions. We hope all AOML employees read *Keynotes* and occasionally contribute.

I have now been the Director of AOML for one-third of a year. Time has flown by, as it does when "one is having fun." That is how I must describe what I have experienced here. The research of AOML is first class, very exciting, and deals with aspects of our world that really matter to people and the environment. I am very grateful to have been given the opportunity to participate in this community. By community I include our neighbors on the "Key," the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, the Southeast Fisheries Center, MAST Academy, the Dade Marine Institute, and the Seaquarium. So folks, thanks for having welcomed me so kindly, and "keep them letters and news items coming in," thereby making *Keynotes* a viable means of communication at AOML. Season's greetings!

Kristina Katsaros

Holiday Happenings

Mark your calendar for some very special dates:

Tree Trimming: Join us in the lobby Tuesday, December 2nd, between 10 a.m. and noon for good cheer and good company as we trim the Christmas tree and decorate AOML for the holidays. Cookies and eggnog will be served.

Door Decorating Contest: AOML's door decorating contest takes place Friday, December 12th. To enter, simply decorate your door with a holiday theme in mind. Kristina Katsaros and George Berberian, judges for this year's contest, will roam the halls Friday morning searching for adorned and decorated doors. Prizes will be awarded for first and second place winners at 2:00 p.m. in the lobby. Decorations must be tasteful and your door must remain undamaged. If keen on winning, rumor has it that the judges can be bribed.

Christmas Party: Plans for this year's Christmas party are still pending. Alejandra Lorenzo will distribute an email message once arrangements have been completed.



Welcome Aboard

Gustavo Goñi joins the Physical Oceanography Division to provide expertise in satellite altimetry.

Monika Gurneé joins the Ocean Chemistry Division to provide web-site design for the South Florida Restoration, Prediction and Modeling project.

Karen Heise-Gentile joins the Ocean Chemistry Division to provide data-base support for the South Florida Restoration, Prediction and Modeling project.

Clarke Jeffris joins the Ocean Chemistry Division's Instrumentation Support Group to assist with maintenance of PCs and software.

Jannette Perez joins the Office of the Director to provide receptionist and clerical support services.

Congratulations

Jules F. Craynock received an award from the ERL EEO Office "in appreciation for dedicated service and leadership to the ERL EEO Advisory Committee."

James L. Franklin and **Joseph S. Griffin** have won Department of Commerce Bronze Medals for their work in developing the Hurricane Analysis and Processing System (HAPS) onboard the Gulfstream IV aircraft. The Bronze Medal award ceremony will be held December 12, 1997 in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Howard A. Friedman has been selected as an At-Large Member of the NOAA EEO Council. The Council monitors NOAA's EEO programs and recommends EEO policy and initiatives.

John Kaplan has won a Department of Commerce Bronze Medal for his work in developing an inland wind decay model (IWDM). The IWDM predicts inland wind speeds produced by landfalling hurricanes. The Bronze Medal award ceremony will be held December 12, 1997 in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Frank D. Marks, Jr., has won a Department of Commerce Silver Medal as part of a group award related to the acquisition of the new NOAA Gulfstream IV aircraft. The Silver Medal award ceremony will be held December 2, 1997 in Washington, D.C.

Not Forgotten

AOML has been recently saddened by the unexpected and untimely deaths of two long-time friends and co-workers, Len Hill and Bob Calvert. Both Len and Bob touched many lives, made valuable contributions to our community, and will be missed for the unique talents and abilities each possessed.

Leonard C. Hill, 47, passed away November 6, 1997 in Hastings, Nebraska from heart failure. Funeral services were held in Hastings on November 11th; an informal memorial service was held in Miami on November 23rd. After serving in the U.S. Navy, Len moved to Miami in 1979 to work as a marine biologist in the Ocean Chemistry Division at AOML. Supported by NOAA and the Office of Naval Research, he was an invaluable participant in dozens of oceanographic research programs conducted in every corner of the globe. Len also contributed to the widely-publicized South Florida Ecosystem Restoration effort by characterizing the planktonic fauna of Florida Bay and the Florida Keys. He became recognized as an international expert on the taxonomy of marine mollusks and identified many new species. His colleagues so respected his expertise that more than 30 species were named in his honor. Len was regularly asked to judge local and national shell shows. He founded and developed a successful business as an international shell dealer, traveled widely in pursuit of rare specimens, and collaboratively published two illustrated shell books, *The World's Most Beautiful Shells* and *Shells, Treasures of the Sea*. He was a true naturalist, respected for his scholarship, unquenchable curiosity, and profound love of the natural world. Len was also a man of kindness, good humor, and impeccable honesty. He is survived by his father, Leonard Hill, Sr., of Hastings, Nebraska, and Edward Paul of Miami Beach, his friend and partner of the past 18 years. (Stop by the library to view Len's two beautiful books, recently donated in his honor.)



Robert W. Calvert, 49, passed away September 27, 1997 in Little Rock, Arkansas from cancer developed as a direct consequence of his exposure to Agent Orange, an herbicide used by the U.S. military to defoliate the forests of Viet Nam. Bob served as a U.S. Marine sergeant in Viet Nam from 1968-1971. During these years, Bob ran reconnaissance missions in the demilitarized zone for the Third Forces Reconnaissance Corps. He was also a scuba diver who searched for and retrieved downed aviators. Bob was wounded twice and decorated several times. After being honorably discharged from the Marines in 1973, Bob's love of the ocean, sailing, and scuba diving brought him to NOAA/AOML where he began employment as an oceanographer and marine engineer. His career was long and varied. He was a participant on the NOAA cruise off the Galapagos Islands that definitively discovered the El Niño weather phenomenon. On another expedition he brought medical supplies to the islanders of the Bikini Atoll in the South Pacific, the site of atomic bomb testing in the 1940s. When Bob's cancer was diagnosed in 1993, it was so widely spread that doctors at the Veteran's Administration assumed it had already been present for a number of years. Bob was given two years to live; he lived for five due to the strength of his indomitable spirit and ever-present dry sense of humor. Bob was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia on November 24, 1997. He is survived by his wife, Rebecca, and children Margaret, a junior at the University of Florida, and John, a student at Coral Gables High School. Rebecca is currently in the process of trying to have Bob's name inscribed on the Viet Nam War Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. since Bob's death was a direct result of his involvement in the war.



Government Notices

OAR policy dictates that the Public Affairs or Legislative Affairs offices be notified when government employees receive requests for interviews and information from the media or elected officials. Notification ensures that such requests can be organized and coordinated with other requests and activities, thereby improving NOAA's ability to effectively and efficiently respond with clear, concise information. OAR's Public Affairs officer, Dane Konop, can be contacted at (301) 713-2483. Brian Wheeler, OAR's Legislative officer, can be reached at (202) 482-4981. Evan Forde, OAR Outreach Coordinator at AOML, should also be informed via email (forde@aoml.noaa.gov) of any requests received for information and/or interviews.

Department of Commerce policy [18 U.S.C. §209; 5 CFR 2635.807(a)] prohibits government employees from accepting honoraria or other payments offered for speeches or official participation at meetings and conferences. Employees are also prohibited from accepting an honorarium as a personal gift for speaking or writing that relates to their official duties or the work of the Department. Travel expenses are reimbursable.

Open Season for Benefits

The Health Benefits Open Season is in effect until December 8, 1997. Comparison charts and brochures from various insurance companies are displayed in the lobby (behind Jannette Perez's desk) for your information and perusal.

NOAA Corps Still Afloat

A senate subcommittee hearing to examine legislation for the disestablishment of the NOAA Corps was held October 30, 1997 in Washington, D.C. Senate bill S.877 would civilianize the NOAA Corps as a cost-effective measure, first proposed in 1995 from recommendations of Vice President Gore's National Performance Review.

Several concerns were raised by the subcommittee about the possible effects of dismantling the NOAA Corps. Senator Ted Stevens (R-AK) discussed whether a civilian contingency could perform at the NOAA Corps' level of expertise. Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME) questioned training costs associated with new civilians and how NOAA intended to fill vacant NOAA Corps positions with qualified applicants. Senator John Kerry (D-MA) addressed the benefits of cohesion, discipline, and flexibility inherent in a uniformed service. He also expressed his belief that the benefits of eliminating the NOAA Corps had not been proven. Captain Fred R. Becker (U.S. Navy, Ret., and Director of Naval Affairs for the Retired Officers Association) and Rear Admiral Christian Andreason (NOAA Corps, Ret.) testified on behalf of the NOAA Corps and presented results from several economic studies which indicated civilian costs associated with absorbing the responsibilities of the NOAA Corps had been greatly underestimated.

While the overall tone of the hearing was sympathetic, no final recommendations were made. However, Congress recently passed the Commerce Appropriations bill (HR2267) which sets the ceiling on the number of commissioned Corps officers in fiscal year 1998 at no more than 283. The bill does not address the recruiting freeze in effect since 1994; therefore, the Administration's restriction on recruiting still applies. The NOAA Corps has dropped from a staff of about 415 officers down to approximately 270 officers in the last three years.

NSF Offers Research Fellowships

The National Science Foundation Division of International Programs is offering long- and short-term fellowships to scientists through the "Research Fellowships in Japan" program. NSF nominates researchers for five fellowship programs administered by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) and the Science and Technology Agency of Japan (STA). The range of programs allows for visits of nearly any length to Japanese universities, inter-university research institutes, and over 120 Japanese national laboratories, public corporations, and non-profit research organizations. For further information contact NSF directly at (703) 306-1100 or call René Eppli, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, at (301) 713-2469, ext. 132. (To view informational literature, contact Gladys Medina, Office of the Director, ext. 4300.)

UPCOMING INFORMAL RESEARCH REPORTS*

Date	Division	Speaker	Title of Report
December 9, 1997	PhOD	Dr. Mark S. Swenson	On ocean-atmosphere coupling in the North Atlantic Ocean.
December 11, 1997	PhOD	Dr. Silvia L. Garzoli	The Benguela Current Experiment.
December 18, 1997	HRD	Dr. Christopher W. Landsea	Part I: Recent trends in Australian region tropical cyclone activity; Part II: Comments on Bengtsson's 1996 <i>Tellus</i> article, "Will Greenhouse gas-induced warming over the next 50 years lead to higher frequency and greater intensity of hurricanes?"
December 19, 1997	HRD	Dr. Joseph J. Cione	Surface thermodynamic conditions near the tropical cyclone inner core.

*All reports begin at 3:00 p.m.



**Happy
Holidays!**

European Geophysical Society Hosts Symposium

The European Geophysical Society will host a symposium in Nice, France from April 20-24, 1998 entitled "The North Atlantic Oscillation: Decadal Variability in the Ocean and Atmosphere." The intention of the symposium is to bring together experts on various aspects of the long-term behavior of the atmosphere-ocean-ice climate system in the North Atlantic, with special emphasis on the causes and effects of the large-scale atmospheric teleconnection pattern known as the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO). The deadline for submitting abstracts is December 15, 1997. For more information visit the EGS web site at <http://www.copernicus.org/EGS/EGS.html>.

Discounts Cards Available

Discount cards are available for Walt Disney theme parks and water parks, Anhauser Bush theme parks, and Universal Studios. Contact Chely Garcia, Office of the Director, ext. 4446 for additional information.

Classified

Looking to unload a used car, a litter of kittens, a case of Kadota figs? *Keynotes* can help and it's only a phone call or email message away.

Travel

Dr. Christopher Landsea will be in Bermuda from December 8-11, 1997 for a presentation to the Risk Initiative sponsors (the Reinsurance Group) entitled "A verification of the 1997 seasonal hurricane forecast and an extended range prediction for 1998."

Dr. Mark Powell will attend the American Association of Wind Engineers Meeting on December 7-8, 1997 in Baltimore, Maryland.

Mr. Stanley Goldenberg has been invited to speak about seasonal and decadal-scale fluctuations at the 6th Annual Banker's Insurance Group Hurricane Conference in St. Petersburg, Florida on December 4, 1997.

Dr. Kristina Katsaros attended the NSCAT Science Meeting in Maui, Hawaii on November 10-14, 1997. Results from this very successful satellite surface wind instrument were presented. Unfortunately, the power supply on the satellite, the Japanese ADEOS, failed after collecting data for nine months. A replacement satellite, QuikSCAT, will be launched November 1998.

Library Arrivals for November-December

- Bigg, G.R. *The Oceans and Climate*. Cambridge University Press, New York, 1996. (QC981.8.C5 B54 1996)
- Grimes, G. Ten-minute guide to Netscape Communicator 4. Indianapolis, IN, 1997. (TK 5105.882 G77 1995)
- Hurrell, J.W. Monthly mean global satellite data sets available in CCM history tape format. Climate and Global Dynamics Division, National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, CO, 1992. (QC880 .B67 no.371)
- IGARSS '97: 1997 International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium: remote sensing—a scientific vision for sustainable development, August 3-8, 1997. Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Piscataway, NJ (IEEE Service Center), 1997. (QE33.2.R4 I57 1997)
- Kousky, V.E. The tropospheric seasonally-varying mean climate over the western hemisphere (1979-1995). Climate Prediction Center, National Centers for Environmental Prediction, National Weather Service, Camp Springs, MD, 1997. (QC861.2 .K68 1997)
- National Global Change Research Program (U.S.). Subcommittee on Global Change Research. Forum on global change modeling, October 12-13, 1994. Available from the National Science Foundation, 1995. (QC903 .N5 1995)
- *Notable Women in the Life Sciences: A Biographical Dictionary*. Greenwood Press, Westport CT, 1996. (QH26 .N68 1996)
- *The Sea Surface and Global Change*. Cambridge University Press, New York, 1997. (GC190.2 .S43 1997)
- *The Global Climate System: Autumn 1994-Spring 1986*. World Meteorological Organization, Geneva, 1987. (QC981.8.C5 G56 1987)

Keynotes is published monthly by the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory. Contributions are welcome and should be submitted prior to the last week of each month to ensure inclusion in the following month's edition. Please address all correspondence to Ms. Gail Derr, Office of the Director, 4301 Rickenbacker Causeway, Miami, FL 33149. Contributions may also be submitted by fax at (305) 361-4442 or by email (derr@aoml.noaa.gov). If you have comments, questions, or suggestions, feel free to send them along as well; we're always interested in hearing from you.

Editor - Kristina Katsaros
Publishing Editor/Writer - Gail Derr

The deadline for submitting material for the January issue of *Keynotes* is Wednesday, December 24, 1997.